

REMARKS

Applicant is in receipt of the Office Action mailed August 23, 2007. Claims 38-53 have been allowed. Claims 1, 3-9, 11, 16, 18-20, 22-25, 27-37, and 51-52 have been amended. Claims 2 and 26 have been cancelled. Claims 54-62 are added. Thus claims 1, 3-25, 27-37, and 54-62 are pending in the application. Further consideration of the present case is earnestly requested in light of the following remarks.

Claims 38-53 have been indicated to be in condition for allowance. The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's consideration of these claims.

Additionally, the Examiner objected to claims 2, 23, 24, 25-28, and 37, but indicated that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent format. Applicant has accordingly rewritten these claims in independent format and thus believes the claims are in condition for allowance.

Specifically, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable matter of claim 2. Independent claim 25 has been amended to include the allowable subject of claim 26.

New independent claim 55 includes the language of claim 1 and modified language of the allowable matter of claims 22 and 23. Applicant believes that these modifications only clarify the claim language without changing the allowable matter.

New independent claim 56 includes the language of claim 1 and allowable matter of claim 24.

New independent claim 57 includes the language of claim 25 and modified language of the allowable matter of claim 27. Applicant believes that these modifications only clarify the claim language without changing the allowable matter.

New independent claim 58 includes the language of claim 25 and modified language of the allowable matter of claim 28. Applicant believes that these modifications only clarify the claim language without changing the allowable matter.

New independent claim 59 includes the language of claim 25 and modified language of the allowable matter of claims 36 and 37. Applicant believes that these modifications only clarify the claim language without changing the allowable matter.

New independent claim 60 includes the language of claim 1 and modified language of claims 2 and 22. Applicant believes that these modifications only clarify the claim language without changing the allowable matter.

Thus Applicant has accepted the allowable subject matter indicated in the Office Action.

102 Rejection

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7-12, 16-19, 25, 30, 34, and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schmidt et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,167,258). Applicant respectfully submits that in light of the amendments to independent claims 1 and 25, the present claims are allowable.

Section 103 Rejection

Claims 5, 6, 13-15, 20-22, 27, 29, 31-33, and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmidt in combination with various references. Applicant respectfully submits that in light of the above mentioned amendments the present claims are allowable.

Applicant also asserts that numerous ones of the dependent claims recite further distinctions over the prior art. However, since the independent claims have been shown to be patentably distinct, a further discussion of the dependent claims is not necessary at this time.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above-referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required or credit any overpayment to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5150-76801/JCH.

Also filed herewith are the following items:

- ☐ Request for Continued Examination
- ☐ Terminal Disclaimer
- ☐ Power of Attorney By Assignee and Revocation of Previous Powers
- ☐ Notice of Change of Address
- ☐ Other:

Respectfully submitted,

/Martin R. Wojcik/

Martin R. Wojcik, Reg. #57577
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT(S)

Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC
P.O. Box 398
Austin, TX 78767-0398
Phone: (512) 853-8800
Date: 2007-11-21 MRW